

onomy talks to be speeded up

IV, March 17 (R) — Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg said that Egypt and the U.S. have indicated agreement to a series of negotiations on Palestinian autonomy, in an effort to speed up the May 26 target date. Dr. Burg, who heads the talks, told reporters that a plenary session of the talks would probably be convened next week. He said last week he had suggested to the heads of the U.S. and Egyptian delegations that the negotiations be accelerated. Both sides indicated their willingness to do so, he said. Prime Minister Menachem Begin said earlier today that the autonomy talks would be prolonged beyond the target date if necessary. Dr. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir speaking in the Knesset made similar statements.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Time bomb explodes in Jerusalem

DAMASCUS, March 17 (R) — Palestinian commandos said here tonight they killed or wounded an undetermined number of Israelis today with a time bomb in a military transport station near occupied Jerusalem. The Palestine News Agency (WAPA) quoted a commando spokesman as saying the blast also caused material damage and disrupted the power plant in the Kiryat suburb. The commandos returned safely to base in Israel, he said. In occupied Jerusalem, police said a time bomb explosion in a Jerusalem suburb street today caused no casualties but some damage to nearby shops and residential buildings.

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Regional Briefs

T, March 17 (AP) — A Palestinian leader has accused the PLO of "pursuing a shameful policy" toward the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and called on Arab governments to "stop and force it to support the Arab cause." The leader, Khalaf, said in an interview with Al Rai Al Am daily yesterday. Mr. Khalaf, code name Abu Iyad, said that he will refuse any Japanese invitation for Mr. Yasser Arafat to visit Japan "if not extended by the Japanese government." He said the PLO leader had received an invitation from a party organisation following efforts by Arab oil-producing countries in the Gulf region. He termed as "cheap bargaining" the practice which stipulates that Arab oil-producers increase to Japan in return for extending an invitation to Mr.

HABI, March 17 (AP) — Sudanese President Jaafar arrived in Abu Dhabi on a three day visit as part of a East tour, the Gulf News Agency reported. President came from Saudi Arabia where he met with King Khalid. The Saudi state radio said the two leaders discussed mutual interest. Mr. Numeiri is scheduled to visit Qatar Tuesday.

AD, March 17 (R) — The ruling Revolutionary Command (RCC) today approved laws for the election of a national assembly and a legislative body for the autonomous Kurdistan region, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. It said the move was "an advanced step in democracy." No elections were set. Iraq has been without a parliament since 1958 when the monarchy was overthrown. The laws for the election of a four-year national parliament with at least 30 members, and a three-year legislative council of at least 10 members for northern Iraq's Kurdistan region, which has been self-ruled since 1974 under a Baghdad-appointed regime and executive.

IN, March 17 (R) — Saudi Arabian authorities have the sack of Mr. Turki Abdullah Al Sudeiri, chief editor of the newspaper Al Riyadh, and banned him from writing, and to a copy of the paper received here today. A three-line with Mr. Sudeiri's picture in yesterday's issue said it had been issued to the managing director of the Al Yamama newspaper establishment. The newspaper did not identify the sack of Mr. Sudeiri, an influential Saudi journalist. The newspaper earlier reported that Mr. Sudeiri had resigned his post for health reasons. The paper had been suspended a little over a year for defying the Saudi information regulations. Mr. Sudeiri had accused the ministry of plotting to arrange for foreign journalists to interview Prince Fahd Ibn Aziz and Prince Nayef Ibn Abdul Aziz, senior minister, while Saudi journalists were denied such access.

VIV, March 17 (R) — Israeli Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon returned home yesterday from the U.S. and said he was "in a position to see a giant superpower like the United States lying on its back, unable to do anything" about the Tehran embassy crisis. "I explained that we (Israelis) will not agree to hostilities in this region," he told airport reporters. Mr. Sharon, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and special aid Linowitz during his visit. He was sharply criticised here for all on U.S. Jewry to hold mass demonstrations against the support for a Security Council resolution two weeks denouncing Israel's settlement policy in occupied Arab territories.

IT, March 17 (AP) — The Kuwait finance minister, Mr. Rahman Al Atiqi, said today President Carter's proposal to curtail public expenditure would be "beneficial to both Kuwaiters and consumers if it leads to a reduction in U.S. price of oil." In an interview with the independent daily Al Rai, Mr. Atiqi said that "the saving of any barrel of oil will be of interest to oil-producing nations in the long-run." But he said it will be up to OPEC to decide any oil price hikes it deems necessary in case the revenues of member countries are affected as a result of the American move. Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti economist lauded President Carter's decision to curtail public expenditure as "a positive step along the path of inflation in the American economy." Mr. Abdul Al Tammar, chairman of the Kuwait Foreign Trade and Investment Company (KFTIC), said: "The position of Kuwait's programme being a success depends on the situation's ability to adhere to the target of fighting inflation under complete control despite problems."

DOUM, March 17 (AP) — Communications services began to normal today after the government released position leaders who had gone on strike. The strike began as a move two weeks ago in demand for higher pay, and led into a full stoppage when the union leaders were fired. Government sources did not disclose how many persons were released. Last week they were released and the strike was lifted. But the terms of agreement reached have not been fully met. A series of strikes and riots have plagued Sudan over the past year, a result of chronic shortages, an unprecedented high inflation and disputes within the civil services and trade union movements.

IT, March 17 (AP) — Ayatollah Hossein Montazeri has said in a march of 20 million Muslims to end Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Kuwait News Agency said. The agency said it monitored a report broadcast by Tehran in a meeting between Ayatollah Montazeri and the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in which the ayatollah made the proposal. Preparation for the march must be done at the proper Ayatollah Montazeri, a leading Iranian religious leader, said as saying. Mr. Shafiq has been visiting Iran to discuss unifying "liberation movements."

IT, March 17 (AP) — Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Al Sabah today said Kuwait was taking "all precautions" against a Foreign attack. He did not name any country, but said: "We are taking all precautions." In an interview with two Kuwaiti dailies, Al Rai and Al Rai Al Am, Sheikh Salem said: "I am confident the internal front is strong and cohesive and well-aware of the threats, as reflected by its support to the political leadership." He said his government is interested in supplying the forces with the most sophisticated weapons. He said: "The Israeli is continuing and will not come to a halt before we reach our aspirations." Our attitude towards the normalisation of relations between Israel and Egypt is clear. Not only we do not support such normalisation, but we believe all Arab states must help guard and step up their vigilance and preparedness for any eventuality," he said. Sheikh Salem said Kuwait is in military coordination with other Gulf states "out of interests and affiliations of destiny binding all states in the region."

U.S. sends warfare force toward Gulf

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP) — A U.S. navy amphibious warfare force carrying 1,800 marines entered the Indian Ocean on Sunday, raising American naval strength there to a record 31 ships. The Pentagon said today a six-ship amphibious task group passed through the Strait of Malacca after a call at Singapore and now is headed for the Arabian Sea. There, it will join two aircraft carrier battle groups and other U.S. ships in the approaches to the oil-producing Gulf.

This is the first time the United States has sent a marine combat unit into the turbulent Indian Ocean-Arabian Sea region.

There are no current plans to land marines in exercises, officials said.

The move is the latest in a series of actions by the Carter administration since last November to demonstrate to the Russians that the United States intends to safeguard its vital interests in the Gulf region.

The United States previously has stationed a maximum of 27 ships in the Indian Ocean-Arabian Sea area in a gradual buildup that began last fall, even before the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The buildup was prompted by the overthrow of the pro-U.S. Shah of Iran and the taking of American hostages at the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

The Russians also have increased their naval presence in the Indian Ocean reaching a maximum of 32 ships in late February. At last report, the Russian navy had 30 vessels in the area, many of them within reach of the U.S. fleet.

So far, there have been no incidents between the naval forces of the two superpowers.

The amphibious group includes the assault ship Okinawa, the tank landing ship San Bernardino, the dock landing ship Alamo, the cargo ship Mobile and two escorting warships, the guided-missile cruiser Gridley and the frigate Barbey. All are normally based in San Diego, California.

The Pentagon's new move brings to 24,000 the number of U.S. sailors and marines deployed in the Indian Ocean.

Peres to yield settlements if back in power

TEL AVIV, March 17 (R) — The leader of Israel's opposition Labour Party, Mr. Shimon Peres, said today he would be prepared to yield up Jewish settlements on densely populated Arab land if his party returned to power.

His statement, made to a gathering of foreign correspondents, came at a time when the government of Prime Minister Menachem Begin seemed in growing danger of falling apart and when Labour Party fortunes looked on the upturn. The Begin government insists the occupied West Bank and Gaza are a God-given gift to the Jews whose homes there cannot be allowed to fall under Arab sovereignty. Mr. Peres challenged this policy and outlined what his approach would be in any negotiations on the future of these territories.

In reply to a question Mr. Peres said: "I would not want to refer to any settlement by name, but settlements which were planted in densely populated Arab areas which we have in mind to return to."

(Continued on page 2)

Because of chance of Israeli attack King Hussein hopes Europe will undertake ME initiative

BEIRUT, March 17 (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein says he hopes European Community will undertake a Middle East peace initiative because there is a chance Israel might attack the Arabs to create new conditions in the region.

The King said in an interview published here today by the English language weekly magazine, Monday Morning, that he hoped a European initiative would influence U.S. policy towards the Arabs.

Commenting on French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's talks in Amman a week ago, the King said it was obvious that France would be discussing the political situation in the Middle East with its partners in the community and "I hope that this may develop into a position that will be taken jointly by the nine and an initiative begun before too long. The sooner the better."

The King added that "positive results of the type sought by the world as a whole have not come through. Hence, Europe's move."

Asked if there were a chance of an Israeli pre-emptive strike, he said: "I believe the chances are there. Israel did create such conditions through aggression in the past."

"I hope that they would be very careful in Lebanon, that they would avoid giving Israel the opportunity to use her military might once again, thereby forcing the world to address itself to new realities."

Israel invaded southern Lebanon two years ago but withdrew after the deployment of a 6,000-man U.N. peace force.

Referring to President Giscard d'Estaing's call during his recent Middle East tour for Palestinian self-determination and Palestine Liberation Organisation participation in any Middle East peace talks, King Hussein said: "These views were voiced with courage by the president. A durable peace must be a just peace."

The King outlined the settlement he cherishes in a combination of an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab lands seized during the 1967 war, including Arab Jerusalem, and a restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

"It can only be the result of an Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied in June 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, which must be returned to Arab sovereignty."

"My feeling," King Hussein told Monday Morning, "is that the Palestinians should have the right to choose themselves and decide what their future should be — be it for a separate entity or for one that would be linked with Jordan or with any other part of the Arab World."

King Hussein said the Palestinian problem "must be solved with the active participation of the Palestinians—whose representative is increasing."

(Continued on page 2)

Carrington concedes PLO is not terrorist organisation

LONDON, March 17 (R) — British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington today declared he did not believe the Palestine Liberation Organisation could properly be described as a terror group.

"I do not think the PLO is a terrorist organisation as such," he told questioners in parliament.

"I think there are some elements of the PLO which in the past have been associated with terrorism, but it would be a great mistake to assume you can get a settlement in the area without taking into account the PLO," he said.

The British government was being even-handed on the Palestinian question, he said, adding: "If the Palestinians will recognise the state of Israel and Israel will recognise the Palestinians have rights too, then there is in that equation a possibility for a settlement."

Jewish leaders from Common Market countries meeting here yesterday criticised moves towards international recognition of the PLO, which Israel has condemned as a "terrorist" group.

French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing recently called for Palestinian self-determination and PLO participation in Middle East peace talks.

Lord Carrington today received a Jewish board of deputies delegation led by Labour M.P. Greville Janner and told it that Britain supported Israel's continued security, a foreign office spokesman said.

But, the spokesman said, Lord Carrington urged the necessity for a settlement which balanced Palestinian recognition of Israel's continued existence with Israeli acceptance of the political rights of the Palestinians.

Lord Carrington said Britain continued to support the 1978 Camp David peace process and hoped for a successful outcome to

the Palestinian autonomy talks between Israel, Egypt and the U.S.

Britain does not recognise the PLO because it has not renounced violence and has not accepted Israel's right to exist as an independent state within secure boundaries, the spokesman said.

In Bonn, chief government spokesman Klaus Boelling said today France and West Germany are convinced that stability in the Middle East should serve as a major part of an overall western response to Soviet moves in Afghanistan.

Mr. Boelling told reporters this view emerged during five hours of talks in Hamburg yesterday between Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

According to Mr. Boelling, the two influential European leaders agreed the Middle East would play an expanded role in Western European policies during the next few months.

They also confirmed that the nine European Economic Community nations were working on a new Middle East policy declaration to be unveiled in the spring.

Sources have indicated the plan will be made public after completion of Palestinian autonomy talks between Egypt and Israel. The declaration may include a statement on the status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and on calls for a Palestinian state.

During the meeting, which took place in Mr. Schmidt's private home, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing briefed the chancellor on the results of his recent Middle East

ern tour.

Mr. Schmidt in turn briefed his French guest on his talks this month in Washington with President Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and other senior U.S. officials.

Mr. Boelling described the Schmidt-Giscard talks as "very useful."

During a briefing, Mr. Boelling said the French and West Germans also hoped that Israeli-Egyptian talks on Palestinian autonomy would prove successful.

The talks, provided for under the Camp David agreement, are scheduled to be completed by late May.

Mr. Boelling denied once more that there were substantial differences between the United States and Western Europe on a response to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

He noted that both the Americans and the Europeans have called for a withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and a return to nonaligned status for the Central Asian country.

Following their meeting in Hamburg, the two leaders expressed satisfaction over the course of the discussions. These included the controversial subject of British demands for a reduction in the amount of money they contribute to the EEC budget.

Mr. Boelling conceded that there were still "a few hurdles" to be overcome before the issue can be settled. France has steadfastly refused to consider a substantial reduction for Britain, as demanded by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Kaddoumi says PLO wants talks on Palestinian autonomy to fail

By Ron Cathell
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, March 17 — The Palestine Liberation Organisation hopes the current Egyptian-Israeli talks on Palestinian "autonomy" will fail so that a new peace initiative by Europe can be taken to the United Nations, the head of the PLO political department, Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, said here today.

"I hope the autonomy talks fail. Afterwards, an initiative should be taken by somebody to enhance and keep the momentum for peace in the Middle East," Mr. Kaddoumi, the PLO's "foreign minister," told the Jordan Times in an interview before his departure to Damascus at the end of a three-day visit to Jordan.

Asked whether the PLO expects a European initiative soon, Mr. Kaddoumi said: "We are optimistic. We are anticipating an initiative to be taken within the framework of the United Nations. We have to have a separate resolution adopted by the Security Council," he said, which would include provisions for Palestinians to realise their national rights to self-determination and an independent state and a return to their homeland.

Mr. Kaddoumi reiterated the PLO stand that it does not accept U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and does not support moves merely to amend that resolution to deal with the rights of the Palestinians. The PLO would therefore not accept any measure which specifically guarantees the security of Israel. "This is one of the contents included in 242, which the European countries recognise, but we do not recognise this," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

Positive signs that Europe may soon launch a peace initiative, Mr. Kaddoumi said, include the recent recognition by France, with the backing of Britain and West Germany, of the Palestinian right to self-determination, and the granting by Austria of diplomatic status to a representative of the PLO in Vienna.

With these developments, the PLO feels closer to the goal of international acceptance of an independent Palestinian state. On the future of the occupied territories, Mr. Kaddoumi said: "We would like to see Israel withdraw from the occupied territories and turn them over to the PLO in order to establish our independent state... First of all we have to see it that the Israelis are withdrawn," he said, before a coordinated response with Jordan could be discussed. "This would be discussed later," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

Who is to negotiate the return of the occupied territories from Israel is an internal Arab problem that must be discussed by the Arabs, he said. Jordan and the PLO have thoroughly discussed the future status of the occupied territories once that land is returned by Israel "and it is necessary to have special character."

(Continued on page 3)

Fraud charges unlikely to cancel Iranian poll

TEHRAN, March 17 (R) — Charges and counter-charges of electoral fraud flew thick and fast today but appeared unlikely to cause cancellation of the first round of Iran's parliamentary poll.

With over half the results declared from last Friday's vote, the fundamentalist Islamic Republican Party (IRP) held its leading position. About two-thirds of first round outright winners came from its lists.

President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr last night called for a systematic investigation of the rising chorus of complaints that widespread cheating had taken place at the polls. State radio said the president's office had demanded an inquiry into complaints at polling stations in Tehran, where 433 candidates contested 30 seats. Tehran results are expected tomorrow.

Mr. Bani-Sadr said yesterday the election would be cancelled if it was found that widespread serious fraud had occurred, but the acting interior minister, Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani, said he did not think a re-run was needed.

The complaints ranged from illegal display of candidates' names at polling stations to vote-forging and fraudulent vote counting by officials. The IRP and the radical Mujaheddin guerrilla group were among the most vocal in voicing accusations.

Those who obtained over 50 per cent of the vote were automatically elected to the 270-seat parliament (majlis). Where no one secured an absolute majority the leading contenders go through to a second round expected about April 4.

Of 69 outright winners declared by late this afternoon, at least 46 were from the IRP lists, although not all of them are party members.

Only nine winners came from a list of candidates announced as supporting the line of President Bani-Sadr, and four of these were also claimed by the IRP as their adherents.

With more than 80 results inconclusive, the parliament appeared unlikely to achieve the two-thirds quota needed to start work before the second round.

Many independent candidates and others from minority groupings are expected to support Mr. Bani-Sadr in parliament, and most IRP deputies are unlikely to oppose him on many issues.

However, an eventual IRP majority in parliament could stiffen the terms set by Iran for the release of the 49 American hostages held by radical students at the occupied U.S. embassy here. The task of bargaining for their release has been delegated to parliament by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

President Bani-Sadr has publicly stated his view that the continued detention of the hostages, now in their 135th day of captivity, is damaging Iran's image abroad.

Partial results from Tehran showed that leading candidates included former centrist Premier Mehdi Bazargan. Revolutionary Council spokesman Hassan Habibi, plan and budget chief Ezzatollah Sahabi, and Azam Teleghani, daughter of the late Ayatollah Mahmoud Taleghani.

A list of 11 front-runners broadcast by state radio included five candidates supported by the Mujaheddin, among them the group's de facto leader Masoud Rajavi.



A New Delhi police constable swings a cane club at a blind man who is also grabbed by another policeman in the Indian capital during a rally by about 500 blind persons Sunday. The incident triggered angry protests in the Indian parliament Monday and an apology from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. (AP wirephoto)

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Israel seizes land near Bethlehem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 16 (R)—The Israeli authorities have fenced off 94 hectares of Arab land near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank of Jordan for the construction of a Jewish town nearby, military sources said here today.

The sources said the land belonged to the Arab village of Al Khader and would be the site of the new town of Efrat, now under construction. Israel has already

confiscated 155 hectares of land belonging to the village for the same purpose.

Villagers have said they would appeal to the Israeli high court against the government move, which came a few days after the announcement that 275 hectares of private land just outside Arab East Jerusalem would be expropriated for the establishment of a new Jewish neighbourhood.

NCC OKs changes in draft 1980 laws

AMMAN, March 17 (JNA)—The National Consultative Council (NCC) today approved amendments to the Civil Aviation law, the agricultural law and the public administration law for 1980.

Approval came at the NCC's weekly session, at which Minister of Transport Ali Subeimat gave an address on moves being taken to solve the country's transport problems. He said that the government is importing 100 buses to be used inside Amman and on routes link-

ing the capital with Salt, Tafila, Aqaba, Mafrak, Karak and Ma'an. This step, he said, is intended to relieve the shortage of transport on these routes, and also to save fuel and reduce the number of accidents on roads.

The NCC decided to refer a draft bill on landowners-tenant relations to the government.

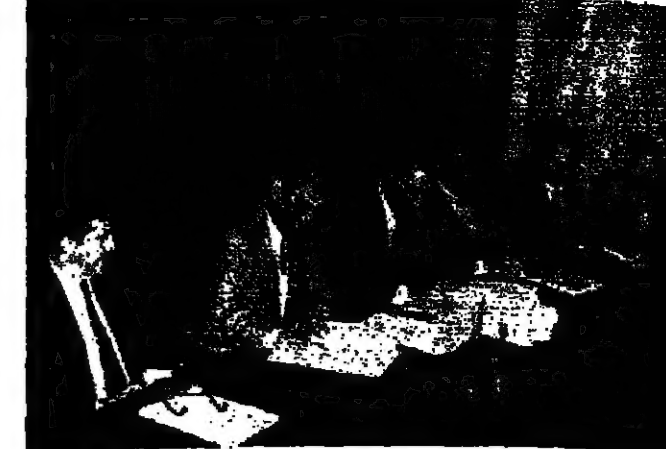
The session was attended by the Prime Minister Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, and cabinet members.



His Majesty King Hussein, flanked by Crown Prince Hassan and Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, presides over the meeting of the Higher Committee for Occupied Territories Affairs.

King chairs meeting of occupied territories team

AMMAN, March 17 (JNA)—His Majesty King Hussein this afternoon presided over a meeting of the Higher Committee for Occupied Territories Affairs. The committee discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories and reviewed living conditions there. They also discussed extending the facilities that will enable citizens in the occupied territories to deal with their problems and will strengthen their steadfastness and firmness in their Arab land. The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Prime Minister Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Lawzi, and a number of Minister and officials concerned with the matter.



Signing the agreement for U.S. aid to Jordan Monday are U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Veliotis (second from left) and, to his right, National Planning Council head Dr. Hanna Odeh.

US grants Jordan \$25m

AMMAN, March 17 (Agencies)—The United States granted Jordan a total of \$25.7 million today to help it offset a budget deficit, obtain technical assistance and finance feasibility studies for development projects.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) granted Jordan a grant of \$20 million to help offset the country's 1980 budget deficit, according to an agreement signed here today.

Signing the agreement for Jordan was the President of National

Planning Council, Dr. Hanna Odeh, and for USAID the American Ambassador to Jordan, Nicholas Veliotis.

Another agreement was signed by the two sides, according to which Jordan will get 3.2 million in technical assistance agricultural projects and a \$2.5 million, agreed on last year for feasibility studies development. The second agreement was signed by Dr. Odeh USAID's director in Jordan Edgar Harrell.

Waiting and hoping

A SENSE of anticipation and even optimism is being felt throughout the Arab World about the impending deadline, now less than two and a half months away, for the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations on Palestinian "autonomy" to produce some results.

Those who say they hope those talks will dissolve in failure are being neither churlish nor "rejectionist." We have not accepted the premise of these particular talks for four simple reasons:

1. "Autonomy," even in its broadest interpretation, is not what the Palestinians want, or have a right to, in their own homeland. It is particularly absurd to expect the Palestinians to settle for such limited autonomy, even for a "transitional period," when their just demands for full self-determination are increasingly being recognised throughout the world, including the Western world.

2. The Camp David framework, envisaging a five-year autonomous phase leading ultimately to "self-rule," contains insufficient guarantees or mechanisms for effecting a full Israeli withdrawal from the "autonomous" occupied territories — which is essential not only for such self-rule to have any meaning at all, but as a vital first step for final peace negotiations.

3. The Palestinians do not consider Egypt to be qualified to negotiate on their behalf, a view which has been hardened as Egypt has gone ahead with full diplomatic relations with Israel without any prospect that the Israelis, judging from their current actions, will comply with the rest of the Camp David accords.

4. The United States, through its unbalanced Middle East policy — seen again most recently in President Carter's about-face on the U.N. settlements vote — is not qualified to be an impartial interlocutor in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It has chosen, instead, to avoid, defer, or otherwise obfuscate the central issues in the conflict, namely, the question of Palestinian rights and the question of Jerusalem.

If anxiety about the consequences of a breakdown of the autonomy talks has turned to optimism, it is because the Arabs increasingly feel that only such a breakdown will give them room to manoeuvre in supporting a fresh initiative to secure a truly just and viable peace settlement. It had been hoped that such an initiative would spring from the assembled and unified ranks of the Arabs themselves. A regrettable lack of coordination of Arab viewpoints — caused as much by the suddenness of Egypt's wholesale withdrawal from the ranks and by escalating Israeli provocations aimed at dividing the Arab front, as by any intrinsic Arab disunity — has made this impossible.

Thus it is that the Arabs look the European Community to come forward with a fresh initiative which the Arabs can support at the United Nations — the only appropriate venue for settling this matter.

Only this way can the momentum of peace be maintained and strengthened in the weeks and months ahead.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: Heads of municipal and village councils converged on Amman on Sunday from around the country to meet with His Majesty King Hussein for a responsible discussion in search of a proper formula for the progress of this country.

King Hussein told them that the municipalities are the first schools for teaching, and arenas in which to practise, democracy, dialogue and popular participation. He announced that the Jordanian woman has the right to elect and to be elected, which means the Jordanian leadership is determined to broaden the base of national responsibility to make it include all those capable of participating in the shouldering of this responsibility.

Naturally, the first thing required for such participation is that voters should not obey personal considerations in choosing their representatives in the municipal or village councils, but direct their choice towards the supreme national interest.

Choosing the most qualified, enlightened, sincere and honest candidate is the only way to ensure that the responsibility for progress and development rests in capable hands and that this responsibility does not become a cover for those who, themselves, pursue their personal interests only.

AL DUSTOUR: In His Majesty King Hussein's address to the heads of municipal and village councils, he emphasised the importance of developing the rural areas so that the fruits of development plans will reach every citizen.

This in fact aims at deepening the meaning of loyalty through widening the field of practical participation and opportunities for people to contribute to the development and progress of this country. It may be that among the greatest dangers developing countries—including Jordan—face is the attractiveness of the big cities, which grow at the expense of the rural areas, thus leading to the migration of people to the urban regions. This situation has led to economic and social disasters in developing countries, for which problems all efforts are now being made to find solutions.

The construction boom which we hail in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid reflects a painful fact—that is, the shrinking of the Jordanian village, which has been and continues to be a source of welfare and blessing and the basis of our economic growth. Our crowded factories and burgeoning economic activities in Amman and the suburbs may have contributed to the development of our industrial production, but they at the same time encouraged the flow of rural manpower to the capital, thus causing the disappearance of the agricultural worker who ploughed our fields and gathered our fruits.

Therefore, in addition to changing the existing laws—to bring them into line with the concepts put forward by King Hussein—what is required is to change the government's attitude, and that of the public, towards the rural areas and their people. Without this change and without changing the philosophy of development accordingly, the laws will remain mere words on paper, while we lack the will necessary for implementation.

Local News Briefs

AMMAN, March 17 (JNA)—The Director of the Department of Statistics, Dr. Burhan Shureideh, stated that Jordan's exports to Iraq during August 1979 amounted to JD 1,280,000. This compares with JD 78,000 during the corresponding month of 1978. The main exports were metal pipes, cigarettes, wood, medicine, washing machines and plastics. Imports from Iraq also rose substantially during the same period. The main imports were fertilisers, batteries, cement and melons.

AMMAN, March 17 (JT)—The Ministry of Education yesterday distributed the results of the first term of tawjihi examinations to schools in Jordan. The first term exam was taken by students throughout the country in January. The results of exams in the West Bank were also announced yesterday.

AMMAN, March 17 (JNA)—A delegation representing the deans of a number of Moroccan universities is due here tomorrow for a ten-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, which is at the invitation of the University of Jordan, the delegation will hold talks with Jordanian officials aimed at increasing cooperation between Jordanian and Moroccan universities. The delegation will also tour a number of cultural centres and archaeological sites in Jordan.

AMMAN, March 17 (JNA)—The director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) is due here tomorrow for a four-day visit to Jordan. During the visit he will hold talks with Jordanian officials on promoting cooperation between the UNFPA and the Jordanian government, and is expected to sign an agreement by which the fund will finance population projects undertaken by Jordan. The UNFPA currently finances a number of such projects, in statistics and man-power planning, and has helped in developing mother and child care centres and the demographic centre at the University of Jordan.

AMMAN, March 17 (JNA)—The Hotel Training Centre will begin its eleventh training course next week. Director of Tourism Michael Hamarneh said today. He added the duration of the course is one scholastic year. The first six months will be dedicated to theoretical and practical training at the centre, while the last three months will involve on-the-job training at one of the off-

cially graded tourist hotels. Mr. Hamarneh said. He said that training is being given special emphasis in the five-year development plan, and that in addition to the centre, the Hotel Training Institute will commence its work in September.

AMMAN, March 17 (JNA)—The Catholic Relief Service in Jordan today signed an agreement with the village council of Sam Sarhan in the district of Mafrak to provide 75 per cent of financing for a project to lay a 500-metre water pipeline to village. The village council will supply the remaining 25 per cent of the total cost, which is estimated at JD 1,200.

AMMAN, March 17 (JNA)—The sixth Arab Chemical Conference, held recently in Baghdad, at the end of five day meetings, recommended Arabising academic studies in chemistry and of encouraging translation of books on the subject. It recommended that the results of research by Arab scientists published in a special edition of an Arab chemical magazine published in Baghdad. The University of Jordan represented Jordan at the conference.

IRBID, March 17 (JNA)—The Ministry of Public Works carry out extensive maintenance work on roads in the Irbid emirate, the director of public works here Mr. Mu'tazz Al Beisi, said today. He said the public works office plans to repair total of 700 kilometres of roads. Work started today is expected to be completed in a month's time, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

AMMAN, March 17 (JNA)—Sources at the Ministry of Communications said yesterday that some 41,335,175 letters and items were handled by the Post Office last year, involving a sum of JD 6,486,628, and providing earnings to the ministry 759,450.

AMMAN, March 17 (JT)—A total of 11 incidents occurred in Jordan over the past 24 hours, according to Al Ra'i news quoting the Public Security Directorate. These included road accidents, in which five persons were injured. There was a fire at an auto parts store, and one case of food poisoning involving a mother and her five children. The poisoning victims were undergoing treatment at hospital.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

The British Council presents under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Alia an exhibition of oil and water-colour painting by the Lebanese artist Ziad Allah Jabbour.

The Goethe Institute and Yarmouk University present an exhibition of documents representing the "Life and Influence of Einstein" in the university's Physics Department.

Technology Exhibition

The French Cultural Centre presents an exhibition on "Ad. Technology." The exhibition opens at 5:30 p.m.

German Film

The Goethe Institute presents a thriller by Geza Radvanyi "Ihr Verbrecher war Liebe" (1958) at 8:00 p.m. The subtitled in English.

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Continued from page 1

King Hussein

ingly recognised by the world community to be the PLO — together with all the parties involved in the conflict.

The King said that under all circumstances, Israel "must be made to budge" and Palestinian rights be recognised if peace is to be obtained in the region.

"Efforts toward a Middle East solution should come from the United Nations, with the involvement of the Security Council. They should involve the two superpowers (and) they should involve possibly other elements, some of our European friends, as well as the parties immediately concerned in the area, including the Palestinians," King Hussein said.

The monarch went on to say that "any real fresh attempt to secure a just and durable peace in the Middle East cannot be based on the Camp David (Egyptian-Israeli) accords."

With the Camp David approach

"running aground very rapidly", the question of peace in the Middle East must return to the United Nations with Western European countries playing a major role in the process," King Hussein said.

"I believe that Europe will consult together and study the situation and decide the course of action. Europe wanted to give the Camp David process a chance... But it is fairly ominous that this whole effort is running aground very rapidly. Positive results have not come through."

He also hoped the world "will rise to the challenge of establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East, the commencement of which, I believe, cannot await the conclusion of yet another U.S. presidential election."

In answer to further questions, King Hussein said: "I believe that the Arabs have not used their economic and political power enough to influence United States

policy in the Middle East or to have anything like sufficient impact on the world as a whole. "In point of fact, we do not have as yet a position that all of us are able to put clearly before the world."

Peres

Arab rule won't remain under Israeli sovereignty, clearly.

"On the other hand we shall insist that our army and our settlements alongside the valley of the Jordan will remain intact as they are."

The Jordan Valley settlements were built on uninhabited Arab land along the fringe of the West Bank territory occupied by Israel in 1967. Former Labour governments authorised them as a strategic bulwark against invasion. Most of the settlements put up since the Begin government came to power in 1977 were planted in heavily populated West Bank areas as a demonstration of Jewish claims to live there.

Mr. Peres would not specify what settlements or what areas he had in mind to hand back to Arab rule. The Labour Party shares the

Begin administration's aversion to the idea of a Palestinian state. But it has long claimed it was prepared to hand much of the West Bank back to Jordan.

Talking about his domestic political prospects Mr. Peres said he believed about five or six members of Mr. Begin's 17-man cabinet were considering resigning because of the acute political and economic problems in Israel.

He admitted he had met some coalition members who were disturbed at the flow of events in Israel. But he denied there had been negotiations to forge a new power line-up.

Mr. Peres pointed with satisfaction to a poll published earlier in the day showing that a general election now would produce an overall Labour Party majority in the Knesset. Previous Labour governments always had to rely on coalition support from the strongly nationalist National Religious Party (NRP).

Elections in Israel are not due until November 1980—unless the Begin administration should collapse in the meantime.

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JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

Basketball roundup

NEW YORK, March 17 (AP) -- The Milwaukee Bucks are back on top in the Midwest Division race, and coach Dom Nelson intends to keep them there. "We've been keying on this since training camp," said Nelson after the Bucks beat Kansas City 128-121 to take a one-half game lead over the Kings in the division battle. "We set goal for ourselves, and our goals was winning the division."

With the division title goes a bye through the dangerous best-of-three first round of the National Basketball Association playoffs.

In other NBA games Sunday: the New York Knicks outscored the Washington Bullets 135-124, the Houston Rockets edged the Detroit Pistons 102-99, the Atlanta Hawks trimmed the Indiana Pacers 95-90, the Los Angeles Lakers whipped the Phoenix Suns 128-106, the Golden State Warriors topped the Utah Jazz 115-103, the Denver Nuggets beat the San Diego Clippers 127-107.

Among the five teams trying for the final three eastern conference playoff berths -- Boston, Philadelphia and Atlanta have clinched -- New York leads with a 37-38 record one-half game ahead of San Antonio, 36-38, with Houston holding the last spot at 36-39. Washington, 34-39, is one game out of the final spot and Indiana, 34-41, is two games out.

In the west, five teams have clinched -- Los Angeles, Seattle, Phoenix, Milwaukee and Kansas City. San Diego, 35-41, has a one-game lead over Portland, 33-41, in the fight for the last spot.

The Bucks beat Kansas City at the foul line, scoring 12 of their first 14 points in the final period on free throws as they moved from a 96-96 tie to an eight-point advantage. Bob Lanier led the Bucks with 20 points. Milwaukee has posted a 15-4 record since acquiring the 6-foot-11 centre from Detroit on Feb. 4.

Ray Williams scored 38 points and his running mate at guard, Michael Ray Richardson, added 24 points and 17 assists as the Knicks won at Washington. New York turned the game around in the third period, hitting 72 per cent of its shots and outscoring the Bullets 38-16 to turn a 71-59 halftime deficit into a 10-point lead going into the fourth quarter.

Moses Malone scored 25 points, including three free throws down the stretch, to lead Houston to victory. Houston scored only 15 points in the final period, but won by limiting Detroit to just 12.

Guards James Silas and George Gervin scored 33 and 27 points, respectively, as San Antonio beat New Jersey for its third victory in four starts since snapping an eight-game losing streak.

Philadelphia fell two games behind Boston in the Atlantic Division race despite a 41-point effort by Julius Erving. The Cavs hit 62 per cent of their field goal attempts in winning their fifth in a row, leading all the way. Randy Smith scored 26 and Mike Mitchell 24.

The Lakers, getting 30 points and 11 rebounds from Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, hit 56 per cent of their shots in routing Phoenix and increasing their lead over Seattle to 2½ games in the Pacific Division.

After 75 games, Los Angeles is shooting at a .532 clip and is well on its way to breaking the NBA field goal mark of .517 which they set last year.

Atlanta, which has already clinched the Central Division crown, posted its 46th victory, equaling the number the Hawks won last year. The Pacers trailed by one point with 2½ minutes to play, but baskets by Dan Roundfield and Armond Hill and two free throws by Eddie Johnson iced the victory.

Phil Smith scored 15 of his 20 points in the second half as Golden State beat Utah.

Dan Issel's 22 points helped Denver beat San Diego. The Clippers still lead Portland by one game in their battle for the final playoff berth in the western conference.

Referee decision agitates Olympiakos fans

ATHENS, March 17 (R) -- Nine policemen were injured and 20 people arrested yesterday when soccer fans rioted over a referee's sending off of one of their team's players, police said.

Fans of the first division team Olympiakos, calling the sending off unfair, stoned stadium buildings, pulled down the goalposts and then rampaged through surrounding streets, police said. Olympiakos drew 0-0 with Apollon.

W. Germany surmounts inflation

NEW YORK, March 17 (AP) -- People almost everywhere are feeling the impact of inflation -- from Argentina, where the cost of living galloped along last year at 139 per cent, to Japan, where years of low inflation are giving way to price spirals.

Here is a look at how a handful of other countries are grappling with the problem, including two nations -- Britain and Canada -- with recent experience in wage and price controls.

WEST GERMANY: Many economists regard this highly industrialized nation as a model of the anti-inflation war. The cost of living rose by only 4.1 per cent last year, in contrast to 13.4 per cent in the United States, and is currently running at 5.5 per cent, against 18 per cent in the United States.

Two major reasons that prices have risen as much as they have in West Germany are the increase in the cost of imported oil and a boost in the sales tax. That they have not risen higher is attributed to a great extent to the tight rein Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's government keeps on the growth of the money supply.

Interest rates have been raised, though they remain at only half the U.S. level. The government is determined to hold down the growth of the budget deficit, but it does not strive for a balanced budget, as President Jimmy Carter proposes to do. German labour unions in the past have not aggressively demanded big catch-up wage increases. West Germany has never had wage-price controls and they are not contemplated.

BRAZIL: Runaway inflation is an ever-present reality in this South American giant. Consumer prices soared 77.3 per cent in 1979, and at an annual clip of 62.4 per cent in the first two months of this year.

The price surges are a product of the economic growth of fast-developing Brazil and the burden of oil price hikes. Brazil imports 80 per cent of its oil. Government-controlled gasoline prices were jacked up 58 per cent last November, for example, pulling overall inflation up by 4 per cent.

The military government has tried a myriad of inflation-fighting tactics over the years. Currently it is trying to hold the growth of the money supply and cut its own spending and budget deficit. Recently it reached agreements with the biggest supermarket chains to freeze the prices of some essential products for up to four months.

Brazil has not had across-the-board wage and price controls, but the military men who lead the country can and do pressure unions.

BRITAIN: The recent rise in consumer prices has paralleled U.S. inflation 13.4 per cent for 1979 and 19.1 per cent currently. The 1979

inflation was spurred by such factors as richer wage settlements, rising oil prices and almost a doubling of the sales tax to 15 per cent.

The strategy of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government is to attack inflation at what it believes are the roots -- too much money in circulation, too much pay for too little production, too much government spending.

But wage-price controls would appear to be anathema to Mrs. Thatcher's strong belief in free-market forces. In 1972-73, another Conservative government tried controls. Inflation was running at 8 to 9 per cent before the controls and at 13 per cent when they began to be dismantled by a new Labour government. Within 18 months of the lifting of the controls, the inflation rate shot to 27 per cent.

CANADA:

The Canadians have had a more recent experience with wage-price controls, in 1975-78. At the outset the inflation rate stood at 10.6 per cent, and the government of Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau predicted it would fall to 4 per cent by 1978. Instead the 1977 rate was 9 per cent. The rate remains steady at about 9 per cent last year but is expected to rise over 10 per cent this year.

Inflation is lower than in the United States in part because energy prices are kept low -- a gallon of gasoline is still under a dollar.

Many economists say the key problem with the economy resources-rich Canada is that so much of its industry is owned by foreigners, primarily Americans. The flow of profits out of the country weakens the Canadian dollar, which in turn makes imports from the United States costlier.

YUGOSLAVIA:

President Josip Broz Tito established a unique system -- "market socialism" in his communist land -- in effect a kind of capitalism without capitalists, compete with competition among worker-run enterprises and pricing according to market forces. But it is not a capitalism without inflation. Last year consumer prices rose 24 per cent, and currently they are rising at a 36 per cent annual rate. A severe imbalance in trade -- too many imports not enough exports -- and the dependence on imported oil are factors blamed.

Western economists also say that workers' councils, who have almost complete control over wages, have in many cases ignored ceilings suggested by the government. But the labor unions complain that the government has not put teeth in its wage-price "guidelines."

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